

## **POLICY STATEMENT ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

APAAC, as Arizona's prosecutor coordinator, recognizes that often criminal behaviors arise as the result of substance abuse and behavioral health challenges. We acknowledge that early interventions along with appropriate prevention and treatment measures and educational programs can and do reduce the burden on the criminal justice system. In those cases that result in a chargeable crime by a drug-involved individual APAAC supports intervention options directed to changing those behaviors, such as residential treatment, therapeutic community treatment, wrap-around services and court supervised drug monitoring.

It is crucial that prevention and treatment capacity, whether community or government based, is at a level appropriate to enable implementation of prison alternatives and available in both the urban and rural areas. Assessing and identifying offenders that can substantially benefit and have the capability to turn away from crime will positively impact the community and reduce incarceration. Where appropriate victims should be involved in the process.